

Andy, a double amputee, went on to be a major force for the American veterans as head of the Disabled American Veterans, a nonprofit that provides a lifetime of support for veterans and their families. With almost 1,300 chapters and more than a million members across the country, DAV empowers our Nation's heroes and their families by helping to provide the resources they need and ensuring our Nation keeps the promises that were made to them.

Mr. Speaker, Andy said he sometimes found himself humming or singing "Silent Night" in odd moments, "like when I'm shaving," he told Chris. I know that as friends and family say good-bye to a true American hero today in Franklin, all is calm, all is bright.

May God bless Andy Kistler, whose service to this Nation will be long remembered, and may he rest in peace.

HONORING THE NATION'S TEACHERS DURING PUBLIC SCHOOL WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LANCE). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our Nation's dedicated teachers during this year's Public School Week.

When I think back to my teachers in public school, one in particular stands out: Ms. Eleanor Ball, my eighth grade English teacher. In addition to instilling in me a love and respect for the English language, she was a teacher who went above and beyond the call of duty and gave each of us youngsters a sense of confidence to face the challenges that would lie ahead in our society.

But who are the Ms. Balls of today? Perhaps they are like Cristina Stout, a 4th grade teacher at Leading Creek Elementary School in Gilmer County, West Virginia. Ms. Stout is known for her compassion for her students. She often buys school supplies and winter coats for kids whose families can't afford them. One year she gave up every lunch break, every day, so that just one of her students who suffers with a sensory issue could eat in her classroom with her and avoid the overstimulating cafeteria. Most days, she stays late to tutor students who need the extra care, help, and assistance to ensure that they don't fall behind.

These are just two of countless examples of our Nation's teachers going above and beyond the call of duty every day across America.

To Ms. Ball, Ms. Stout, and teachers everywhere, we thank you, from the bottom of our hearts.

HONORING JOE ORGILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. KUSTOFF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and re-

member Joel Orgill, a friend of mine and a great west Tennessean who passed away this week at the age of 80.

Joe was a lifelong Memphian who inspired so many with his business prowess, his strong faith, and, most importantly, his kindness and commitment to giving back to his community. Through the years, Joe was always very nice to me and offered great advice and counsel.

Like most Memphians, I knew Joe as an astute businessman who started in the family business as a salesman and worked his way up to president and chairman of the board. Joe played a major role in growing Orgill, Inc., the company as it is known today, into one of the largest hardware distributors of its kind in the entire world and the longest running business in Memphis history.

Joe Orgill was a real titan in the hardware industry. Besides leading one of the major privately held companies in the Memphis area, Joe was a real people person. He had the rare ability to connect and to interact with people of all types and, more importantly, treated everyone the same way.

But much more importantly, Joe was a philanthropist who always gave back to his community. Joe Orgill dedicated an incredible amount of his time and resources to charitable organizations throughout the MidSouth: the United Way, Meals on Wheels, Church Health Center, Rhodes College, the Dixon Gallery and Gardens, and many more.

I mentioned Meals on Wheels. Joe took great pleasure in stopping whatever he was doing, whatever meetings, to personally deliver these meals to those most needy. To me, that really personifies Joe Orgill.

But most importantly, Joe enjoyed spending time with his family.

Roberta and I send our condolences to Joe's wife, Irene, as well as his four daughters—Adele, Irene, Anne, and Kate—and to the entire family.

While we mourn the loss of Joe, I know that his spirit lives on in his wonderful family and in the Memphis community, and I have no doubt that Joe Orgill's legacy will inspire generations to come.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 31 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. JENKINS of Kansas) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Dom Elias M. Carr, All Saints Regional Catholic School, Glen Cove, New York, offered the following prayer:

O God, beyond all praising, source of light, sustainer of life, significance of liberty, we come before You.

With hearts filled with wonder, we thank You for every gift You send, for blessings without number, and mercies without end.

Turn to us as we lift our hearts before You, and wait upon Your word, honoring and adoring You, our good and gracious Lord.

Then hear us, O God, accepting the love we bring, that we, who know Your favor, may serve You, our unimaginable king.

Look kindly upon these Representatives and their staffs, showering upon them the spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice.

And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill, let us triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless You still: to marvel at Your beauty and glory in Your ways and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. SUOZZI) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SUOZZI led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND DOM ELIAS M. CARR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SUOZZI) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. SUOZZI. Madam Speaker, I am here to welcome Father Elias to the Chamber. He is from my hometown of the city of Glen Cove.

Father Elias, as was mentioned, is a canon regular of St. Augustine from Klosterneuburg, Austria, and he and three of his colleagues from Klosterneuburg have been assigned to my parish, St. Rocco's, and our neighboring parish of St. Patrick's since 2011.

He is joined here today by his parents as well as his brother, who is also a priest, Father Richard from Annandale, Virginia.

I just wanted to say that we are so honored to have him here today. He has made such a dramatic difference in our community, along with his colleagues, Father Daniel, Father Ambrose, and Father Gabriel; and a great difference in my family's life as well.

We are so grateful to you for your service to our community and to your faith, and to our faith, and for making such a difference in our lives.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

WORKERS AND FAMILIES ARE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE NEW TAX CUT LAW

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, as I travel to each corner of my district, I hear from workers and families who are optimistic about the new tax cut law and what it means for their pocketbooks.

There is a momentum in our economy, and the latest jobs report from February is another piece of positive news. Last month, the economy added 313,000 jobs, far exceeding expectations; the unemployment rate remained at a 17-year low for the fifth consecutive month; and labor force participation increased by more than 800,000 workers, the biggest surge in 15 years.

Earlier this week, the National Federation of Independent Business released a survey that found small-business owners' confidence in the economy is soaring, and they are prepared to hire and raise wages without a government mandate. Imagine that.

Madam Speaker, these are encouraging signs that our policies of reducing excessive red tape and cutting taxes are working.

Let's build on these results and continue to advance solutions that improve the lives of the people we represent.

CELEBRATING 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, this weekend, Irish Americans will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with parades and parties of every level of exuberance, including in my hometown of Buffalo, New York.

Buffalo's St. Patrick's Day celebration is one of the most spirited in America.

This year is a special celebration as it marks the 20-year anniversary of peace in Northern Ireland. The 1998

Good Friday Agreement brought peace to Catholics and Protestants after 700 years of armed conflict.

This peace belongs to the people of Northern Ireland and to the world.

Sinn Fein leaders Gerry Adams and the late Martin McGuinness, along with the Democratic Unionist Party's Reverend Ian Paisley took a courageous step no one believed was possible 20 years ago. They denounced violence and committed themselves to a peaceful power-sharing and reconciliation to live in peace together.

Madam Speaker, let this St. Patrick's Day and the 20th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement stand as a shining light of hope for a gentler America and a more peaceful world.

CIVIL WAR IN SYRIA

(Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to shine light on the ongoing tragedy in Syria.

Today marks 7 years of civil war in Syria, 7 years of indiscriminate killing of women and children, 7 years of intermittent chemical attacks on civilians by the Assad regime, 7 years of bombings, of people thrown out of their homes, of children whose youth has been stolen from them.

The ongoing tragedy in eastern Ghouta is just the most recent of horrific events perpetrated by the Assad regime and their Iranian-backed militia.

The White Helmets group reports that 800 civilians have been killed in the past 2 weeks as the Assad regime continues to pound the rebel-held area, despite the ongoing humanitarian cease-fire.

The blatant disregard regime forces have for civilian life is nothing short of despicable.

We must continue to be engaged in efforts to support the Syrian Democratic Forces and other allies that believe in a free, democratic, and independent Syria.

Without U.S. leadership, the carnage will continue and we will be left with meaningless U.N. resolutions. We must stand with our allies to stop this devastating carnage that is tearing apart families and ruining countless lives.

HONORING DEPUTY DAVID LEE'SEAN MANNING

(Mr. BUTTERFIELD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, it is with sadness that I rise today to honor the life and work of a young 24-year-old deputy sheriff from Edgecombe County, North Carolina, who was tragically killed during a traffic stop in his community on Sunday, March 11, 2018.

Deputy David Lee'Sean Manning lost his life when his patrol vehicle crashed while engaged in the traffic stop.

The elected sheriff of Edgecombe County, my friend, Sheriff Clee Atkinson, informed me that this loss has resulted in tremendous sadness for the Manning family and the entire law enforcement community, an emotion that we all certainly understand.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the 750,000 citizens of North Carolina's First Congressional District, we honor the life and service of Deputy David Lee'Sean Manning.

May God continue to embrace David's biological family, embrace his law enforcement family in the weeks and months to come, and give them the solace that they need to continue with their lives.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

(Mr. LANCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Public Schools Week to recognize the incredible work in public education done every day in every State in our Union.

I have the honor of representing some of the finest public schools in the Nation. This did not happen by accident. Our public schools lead the country because of the tremendous work of our public educators.

I attended public schools, I respect our teachers, and I proudly support our public schools here in Congress.

I know the work of educators can be difficult, but the life of a teacher is a vocation, not an occupation. Educators give their lives in service to future generations of leaders, thinkers, writers, doctors, scientists, and visionaries.

We need teachers, and we need the public education system to remain strong in the United States. Public schools are where our students realize their talents and their potential.

We need good educators to continue offering encouragement and advice and to be champions and mentors.

Let us celebrate this Public Schools Week by thanking the teachers and educators in our lives.

PUTTING PENSIONS BACK ON SOLID GROUND

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, many pension plans across America are on the brink of failure and threatened by massive cuts. If nothing is done, 200 multiemployer plans are projected to fail, many within the next 10 years, and the impacts will be felt by Americans in every State in our country.

Cuts to these pensions would be economically devastating for 1.5 million people who have earned their livings as carpenters, truck drivers, iron and steel workers, bricklayers, and painters.

They paid into these plans. After a lifetime of hard work, they deserve to retire with dignity and peace of mind.